

SANTA TERESA OVAL PROJECT

Club: Ltyentye Apurte Football Club

Council: Macdonnell Regional Shire Council / Alice Springs Town Council

Venue: Santa Teresa Oval

Funding Partners	Contribution
Australian Football Facilities Fund	\$50,000
Lights: The Central Land Council	\$353,000
NT Government	\$110,000
Melbourne Football Club Cash	\$75,000
MCC Foundation	\$120,000
MFC in kind / Project Management	\$50,000
MFC Supporters	\$53,000
TOTAL	\$661,000

OVERVIEW

In the community of Santa Teresa was a red dirt oval made up entirely of clay. In partnership with Atyengenhe Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) and Melbourne Football Club, Arid Edge transformed the once rocky football oval into a lush, green paddock bringing to life the 'MCG of the Desert'.

After four years, the Santa Teresa community, 80kms from Alice, relaunched their re-grassed oval in June 2021, along with goalposts from the MCC and brand-new lights at 100 lux.

OUTCOMES

- » Grassed oval / MCC Goal Posts / lighting to the oval
- » Directly linked to increased participation and has demonstrated improved environmental outcomes for local and regional indigenous communities in the Alice Springs region.
- » Lights permitting the senior men and the under 18 teams to practice, and the children to play, until after dark most nights. The minimum number of community members on the oval over the course of each day is approximately 50 meetings, and cater to potential game development activities including Gala days, AFLX and AFL9's tournaments.
- » The grassed oval is used by 50 people each day and more than 31 hours of football use each week.



Melbourne Football Club CEO Gary Pert said the community of Santa Teresa and the oval project are incredibly close to the heart of our football club.

"Since the concept of grassing the oval was first proposed to us, the club has worked incredibly hard to help make this dream a reality for the people of Santa Teresa,"

"The oval really is the centre piece of the community and a place that fosters connection and purpose for people in Santa Teresa. As a football club we feel humbled to have played a role in making this project happen and blessed to be part of the Santa Teresa community."

[GRAND OPENING VIDEO](#) 

[SANTA TERESA OVAL VIDEO](#) 

[GRASS ON THE OVAL VIDEO](#) 



CEO of Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) & Santa Teresa Enterprises Limited, Ellie Kamara said the impact of the oval on the community is phenomenal.

"The idea to grass the oval in Santa Teresa was born from a random, wishful remark and the Melbourne Football Club has turned our crazy idea into a reality," said Kamara.

"The oval is an extraordinary addition to the community, and the wonderfully high usage shows the amazing patience of the community whilst waiting for the grass to establish & for the oval to be 'open'. Thanks continue to flow to the MFC & the MCG for our beautiful oval."